

Godzilla

By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



I am a fan of *Godzilla*. As I child, I enjoyed the original Japanese movies from the 1950's with all of the bad dubbing and the cheesy special effects and have rooted for the giant creature. This time was no exception. It seems as though this *Godzilla* was deliberately made to be a B-movie, which created the same feeling of fun and excitement for me. My inner child was laughing at these monsters battling it out while the human heroes looked on in wonder and terror.

This *Godzilla* is a little more dinosaur than the original, but still has the heart of a champion. Moving all of the radioactive action along is a nice plot involving a nuclear plant worker who loses his wife and reconnects with his estranged son. The battle scenes seemed to pay homage to those older versions in that they are neither frightening nor realistic. But that is what I like most about them. You can just watch and be entertained without the *Jurassic Park* jitters.

Godzilla has been resurrected for a whole new generation and once again for the old one. It looks like this one will also lead to a series of sequels. I really want to see Mothra and Rodan again. These movies are such a hoot. You just eat your popcorn and go along for the ride. You don't question the inconsistencies or think that this would never happen in real life. For two hours it does.

Observe and remember if you can those Saturday matinees with the double features and the cartoons in between. Remember the days when you could sit in a balcony and feel safe? Remember the days before people started interrupting the magic with their cell phone lights and text messages? That is what this movie gave back to me.

Godzilla is a hero and a creature to be appreciated and respected for his courageous efforts to save the rest of us from what is ultimately the consequence of our own actions. All of the nuclear waste that is buried somewhere that only the government knows could one day produce a monster of an explosion and maybe *Godzilla* is a metaphor for the damage we humans have done over the years to the environment as a species. *Godzilla* is a symbol to remind us that we need to be mindful of all the

creatures affected by our ecological fallout. I will keep rooting for him. I give him 3 monsters.

